

Message Text

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50

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DPW-01

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Z 181627Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 2998

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6799

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB

SUBJ: REPORT OF EXECUTIONS OF NEWSMEN IN PHNOM PENH

REF: STATE 89065

1. BANGKOK EMBASSY OFFICER CONTACTED FRENCH ARMED FORCES ATTACHE LIEUTENANT COLONEL JEAN ROUBERT AT HIS HOME AT 2245 HOURS LOCAL APRIL 18. ACCORDING TO LT COL ROUBERT HIS EMBASSY RECEIVED REPORT FROM FRENCH CONSULATE IN PHNOM PENH AT 1830 HOURS LOCAL 18 APRIL THAT CONSULATE HAD ASSEMBLED ALL FRENCH NEWSMEN AND HAD FOUND THEM ALIVE AND ALL RIGHT, NONE WERE MISSING.

2. LT COL ROUBERT SAID THAT FRENCH EMBASSY IN BANGKOK HAD THEREFORE CONCLUDED THAT AP REPORT THAT 21 NEWSMEN IN PHNOM PENH WERE EXECUTED IS FALSE. LT COL ROUBERT WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM WHETHER OR NOT NYT REPORTER SYDNEY SCHANBERG WAS ALSO ALL RIGHT. HIS REPORT FROM PHNOM PENH REFERRED TO FRENCH NEWSMEN BUT GIVEN THE NUMBER OF REPORTED KILLED IN AP STORY, IT APPEARS TO FRENCH EMBASSY THAT FRENCH NEWSMEN MUST ALSO BE INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL TO REACH 21 AS REPORTED BY AP.

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3. ACCORDING TO TIME MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT IN BANGKOK, AFP BUREAU

HAD ALSO REPORTED THAT AP STORY WAS NOT TRUE. EMBASSY OFFICER
BANGKOK ALSO ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT AP BUREAU CHIEF RICHARD BLYSTONE
FOR COMMENT REGARDING THIS REPORT, BUT WAS UNAVAILABLE.

4. WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO CONFIRM REPORT.
MASTERS

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NNN

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